



MEDIA RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

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FORMER NASHVILLE DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF DEBORAH FAULKNER TAPPED TO HELP DIRECT TENNCARE FRAUD AND ABUSE UNIT

FAULKNER TO HELP EXPAND EXISTING FRAUD AND ABUSE EFFORTS AT TENNCARE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – On the heels of Governor Bredesen’s call for an enhanced fraud and abuse effort within the TennCare Bureau, state officials today announced that former Nashville Deputy Chief of Police, Deborah Faulkner, has been appointed Assistant Director of Program Integrity for TennCare.

Faulkner, who served for more than 30 years in the Nashville police department before retiring as Deputy Chief of Police, will assume her new duties later this month.

“I will outline substantial reforms to the TennCare program in the coming weeks. While I’m still working on the details of that reform plan, I absolutely believe a vigilant focus on potential fraud and abuse must be part of anything we do. That’s why I’m proposing additional funding for this effort in the budget,” Bredesen said. “I am confident that Chief Faulkner’s experience and expertise will play a critical role as we step-up efforts to address these issues.”

“Aggressively pursuing individuals who may be illegally obtaining coverage or abusing benefits is an essential component of regaining control of the TennCare program,” said Manny Martins, Deputy Commissioner and Director of the TennCare Bureau. “Faulkner’s law enforcement and executive management skills will help seek out fraud and abuse in the TennCare program and will expand on the relationships that have been formed between the Bureau and the state’s law enforcement community.”

TennCare’s Program Integrity Unit conducts a series of monitoring and investigative activities to identify and investigate enrollees and providers who may be abusing the system. The Governor’s budget proposal includes an additional \$4 million in funding for expanding and enhancing this effort.

“Helping the State in its efforts to investigate, prevent and prosecute fraud and abuse in the TennCare program is an exciting challenge and I’m glad to have the opportunity to contribute to that mission,” Faulkner said. “The Governor and the TennCare Bureau are committed to ridding the program of individuals who defraud or abuse the TennCare system and I am anxious to join them in that pursuit.”

(more)

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Faulkner joined the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department in 1973 as a police officer trainee. She served as a criminal investigator and patrol officer for eight years prior to being named sergeant in 1982. She was named lieutenant in 1987 and assumed responsibilities for Internal Affairs and was the department's first Accreditation Manager. Under her guidance, the Nashville police department achieved accreditation in 1994.

Faulkner was named Captain in 1990 and Assistant Chief of Police in 1996. As Assistant Chief, Faulkner oversaw the Administrative Services and Uniform Services division for the Nashville police department for five years. In 2001 Faulkner was appointed Deputy Chief of Police, a post she held until being named Acting Chief of Police in April of 2003. Faulkner announced her retirement from the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department in January of 2004.

Faulkner received a doctorate in Human Development Counseling from Vanderbilt University in 1984 and a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Middle Tennessee State University in 1979. She graduated from the University of Memphis in 1973 and served as Adjunct Faculty Member at Cumberland University and Tennessee State University from 1994 through 2000.

Among her accomplishments, Faulkner established the Metropolitan Nashville police department's Citizen Police Academy and *BOLO* (Be on the Look Out) program. She implemented the first Crime Bill grants, which provided funds for the hiring of more than 200 new police officers.

Faulkner also led the department's implementation of Homeland Security efforts during recent high-alert periods and oversaw the acquisition of Homeland Security related safety equipment.

In 2002 Faulkner was selected as the *Athena Award* winner, received CABLE's *Spirit of Leadership* award, and was awarded the Girl Scout's *Volunteer Award*. Faulkner received the Metro Police Department's *Exemplary Service Award* in 1994 and in 1995 and the National Conference of Community and Justice's *Brotherhood-Sisterhood* award in 1994. She also serves on a number of community, non-profit boards of directors.

TennCare is Tennessee's managed care insurance program for 1.3 million people who are poor, disabled or uninsured.

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This information is posted on the TennCare website at www.tennessee.gov/tenncare/faulknemr.pdf